

## JOINT RESOLUTIONS

established to study the development of community residences as an alternative to institutionalization.

WHEREAS, It is now generally accepted that small community facilities are vastly superior to large institutional settings for care, treatment and rehabilitation of the mentally ill, mentally retarded, the offender and the juvenile in need of supervision; and

WHEREAS, Each of these individuals is a human being and thus entitled to dignified and humane consideration; and

WHEREAS, Primarily because of the lack of understanding, insufficient funds and limited resources there has been no continuing or concerted effort to develop necessary community facilities; and

WHEREAS, Without a continuing and concerted effort to develop and coordinate adequate services, no significant and lasting positive correction of existing institutional models can be obtained; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That this Body requests that the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Delegates establish a commission for the purpose of investigating current programs, studying the development of community residences, and seeking solutions to common problems. The Commission should consist of at least three members appointed by the Governor representative of voluntary citizens groups which shall include a minimum of one concerned with the mentally retarded, and one concerned with the mentally ill; three representatives of State administrative agencies including the Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene, Employment and Social Services, and Public Safety and Correctional Services, and three representatives of the legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commission shall investigate and analyze the common problems of community-based treatment and residential facilities, such as the following: site-finding; local zoning ordinances and the building codes; staff recruitment, training, and supervision; personnel policies; transportation, logistics, maintenance, and hygiene; community relations; counselling, other special services, diet, entertainment, and activities; exchange of information on vacancies; standardized legal documents; measurement of progress, auditing, and oversight; maximizing participation in Federal, State, and local programs; coordination of